

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /055 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9981

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1330

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: FEFAC FAVORS VERY MODERATE FEEDGRAIN PRICE INCREASE

1. THE EUROPEAN FEED MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION (FEFAC) GAVE US A COPY OF ITS NOTE, DATED NOVEMBER 10, 1975, TO EC COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE LARDINOIS CONTAINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TWO STRONG REQUESTS: (1) THAT THE COMMISSION TAKE CARE THAT AN INCREASE IN THE FEEDGRAIN SUPPORT PRICE BE VERY MODERATE, AND (2) THAT THE INCREASE IN THE THRESHOLD PRICE FOR CORN BE MODERATE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ITS FEED VALUE SO AS TO AVOID A SPREAD BETWEEN THE CORN THRESHOLD PRICE AND THE FEED WHEAT SUPPORT PRICE THAT CANNOT BE TECHNICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, OR POLITICALLY DEFENDED.

2. THE ISSUE OF WHEAT AND FEEDGRAIN PRICE INCREASES SHOWS SIGNS OF HEATING UP. WHEREAS COPA (COMMITTEE OF PROFESSIONAL FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS, THE EC BLANKET ORGANIZATION OF MEMBER STATES' FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS) FEELS CONSTRAINED ON THE ONE HAND TO SUPPORT ITS FARMER MEMBERSHIP BY HOLDING OUT FOR LARGE INCREASES IN SUPPORT PRICES, COPA'S LEADERSHIP ON THE OTHER HAND TOLD US THAT SUCH AN INCREASE IS HARDLY JUSTIFIABLE IN THE PRESENT

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INFLATIONARY COST-PRICE SQUEEZE. FURTHERMORE, COPA HAS BEEN UNDER

CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM TRADE UNIONS AND CONSUMER GROUPS TO
HOLD DOWN PRICE INCREASES.

3. THE COMMISSION ALSO IS AWARE OF THESE PRESSURES.
WIJNMALLEN, LARDINOIS' CHEF DE CABINET, TOLD US THAT THE
COMMISSION IS THINKING OF MODERATE INCREASES IN SUPPORT
PRICES, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE RANGE OF 7-9 PERCENT. GREENWALD

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